

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 2, Folder 22

June 19, 1956 -
September 11, 1956

0833

19 June 1956

Dear Bob:

On Saturday last, the Bermuda Race took place from Newport harbor, and although 89 ships started, there were at least 300 ships in the area of all sizes. The largest ship of them all was the JOHN PAUL JONES commanded by your son and heir. I was a guest on the JOHN PAUL JONES having been invited there by Commander Destroyers, Rear Admiral Joseph Daniel. I was the senior officer aboard on this trip and I enjoyed it thoroughly.

Your son has a fine command and the crew has fine morale. Therefore, my trip and that of the many guests was a most satisfactory one.

I am not going to pretend to write you about the JOHN PAUL JONES because in many ways it is very similar to our older destroyers, differing largely in habitability. This is a new factor which includes air cooling, better living spaces, and better messing arrangements. You will see all this one day when you visit your son or he brings his ship to visit you. My only reason for writing this letter was to tell you of how proud I am of him and of his command.

By the way, while writing to you about this, I sent you some papers some time ago which I hope you received. I thought that you would be interested in seeing what was developing and could point out any errors or would accept in general what was there.

Two of the three destroyer Commanding Officers in that section, that is Admiral Smoot and Captain Habecker, are quite satisfied with the way the picture developed. It turns out, although the reports don't say so, that the leading destroyer the NEWCOMB was far ahead of the LEARY and the GRANT. This is admitted by both Roland Smoot in the NEWCOMB and Frederic Habecker on the LEARY. There isn't anything of particular importance in this thing to you, except the fact that at this time, the good DENVER, your flagship, moved to a northerly position to avoid the gunfire which seemed to be directed at her. I would appreciate you returning these papers.

I will be out in California in July and I hope to see Admiral Spruance; in fact, I have a kind of tentative appointment with him. Since you are living in somewhat

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the same area, I may be able to see you too.

Best regards to you and Mrs. Hayler and with congratulations
on the fine son which you have commanding the JOHN PAUL JONES,
I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

E. W. BATES

Vice Admiral Robert W. Hayler USN (Ret)
P.O. Box 3662
Carmel, California

0835

19 June 1956

Dear Bobbie:

This letter is to tell of how much I enjoyed the privilege of being your guest on Saturday last during the start of the Bermuda Race. My guests enjoyed the ship, and the courtesies extended by the ship, equally well with myself. First, I want to commend you on your command. The JOHN PAUL JONES, being the last word in the Navy, is a beautiful sight to an old destroyer sailorman. I was always a little jealous when I heard that you had been designated to command this ship, and now that I have been on it, I continue to feel somewhat jealous. She handles well and you handle her very well indeed. Your crew seemed highly courteous and competent and the ship is in fine shape. I thought your mess hall for your crew unusually interesting and apparently a very fine solution of a difficult problem.

I am going to write to Admiral Daniel and also to your father so that both of them will be pleased at your success in command. Many thanks for your numerous courtesies, including your good judgement in choosing a fine day, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Commander R. W. Hayler, USN
Commanding Officer
U.S.S. JOHN PAUL JONES
Destroyer Division 181
Fleet Post Office
New York, New York.

0836

26 June 1956

New York Yacht Club
37 West 44th Street
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

It has come to my attention that Mr. John H. Millar presently of Newport R.I. has been proposed and seconded for membership in the New York Yacht Club.

I have known Mr. Millar for about twelve years not only during the war when he served as a reserve officer in the Royal Navy but also for the many years since that time. I have therefore known him in both the military and social fields of life. He is engaged in business in Newport as well as in England in the manufacture of aeroplane engine parts and has been very successful.

His wife who is an American is extremely charming and in every way a most gracious lady.

Mr. Millar is a yachtsman of experience. Not only has he owned and raced yachts abroad but he is a member of numerous yacht clubs of which might be mentioned, The Royal Yacht Squadron, The Royal Corinthian Yacht Club and the Royal Thames Yacht Club.

Because of the above I consider that Mr. Millar is in every way qualified to be a member of the New York Yacht Club and I further feel that his addition to the club would be advantageous to the club: I therefore recommend him for membership.

Very Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret)

0837

26 June 1956

Dear Wu:

It was with a great deal of disappointment, and need I say regret, that I learned that you are about to retire from the Navy. It had been my understanding, indeed I say my hope, that you would remain on this assignment for sometime longer. In fact, it was also the hope of very many officers, and I include Flag Officers as well. I am very fond of your relief, Vice Admiral Felt, as I knew him well here at the Naval War College where he did a very fine job as Chief of Staff, but I had thought that the rumors I heard about his relieving you were to be effective in the more distant future.

I want to thank you for your help to the Naval War College which I feel sure is paying dividends to the Navy in the accomplishment of its graduates. Your appreciation of the need for educating officers of the Navy and your support of that appreciation has had much to do with the success of this college.

I also want to thank you for your unfailing support of me and of my work. What I am doing is difficult and laborious and yet in my opinion, very important - in fact I received a very complimentary letter to that effect only a few days ago from one of the historians and Deans of Duke University who had participated in our Global Strategy Discussions here. However it requires the understanding courage of people like you to make it possible of accomplishment. For this I am grateful!

You can go to your retirement feeling that you have contributed greatly to your Country's welfare by the brilliant service which you rendered to the Navy throughout your highly successful naval career. You have been in many positions of great trust and responsibility and you have always measured up to the high demands made of you. I don't know any officer who enjoys today the confidence, support, and the respect of his fellow officers more than you.

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I know that the Navy is much better for your service in it. In fact Rear Admiral Eccles (retired) said to me today "In all of my knowledge of Admiral Duncan I have never heard anything disparaging about him - his ability, integrity and devotion have been unquestioned".

With hopes that I will see you before you retire,
I am, as ever,

Most sincerely,

R. W. BATES

Admiral Donald B. Duncan USN
Vice Chief of Naval Operations
Room 4E624, Pentagon
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

0839

1 August 1956

Dear Commander:

This note is to thank you for the copy of Secretary Pratt's speech before the Naval War College on the occasion of the graduation ceremony, one copy of which I received from Commander Hibben.

It was very nice of you to send it to me because I personally thought the address made by the Secretary was very appropriate and well delivered and evidenced a thorough understanding of the command problem.

I don't know any Secretary in Washington who I feel is better qualified to discuss these matters than your "boss", and I am very proud about this because I not only served with him here but in the Fleet as well.

Since the address I have had many people speak to me, officers as well as their wives, because it appears that the address gave them hope for the future and because it "was right down the alley" of their deep interests.

I am glad to see that the Survivors Benefit Bill and the Dependents Medical Care Bill have been passed; these should help a lot in maintaining the morale of the services and thereby the desire of "many more than usual" to remain in the service. We must retain our best men and we must make the Navy a satisfactory place for them. I think that Secretary Pratt, as well as our high command, understands this quite well.

In looking over the speech of the Secretary's, I was, of course, heavily impressed with his statement that, "Our combat personnel, on, over and under the sea, and on the ground, must always constitute the elite of the Navy."

I have been stressing for a very long time the concept that while it may be advisable to give incentive pay for special skills in a manner somewhat reminiscent of the pay scales for hazardous duty, it must be kept in mind that the most specialized skill of all is command and therefore those who command must be given recognition over and above the technical specialists.

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1 August 1956

This concept is well known in business where, for example, in the General Electric Co. many technical experts are hired in many fields at great expense, but the executives who handle all are reportedly infinitely higher paid than are these specialists. All I can say, therefore, is this: "God speed the Secretary in the success of his mission".

With many thanks again for your thoughtfulness in sending these copies of Secretary Pratt's speech, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Commander
E. H. Dunlap, Jr. USN
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Personnel and Reserve Forces
Washington 25, D. C.

0841

1 August 1956

Dear Charlie:

I have been on the Coast for three weeks so that I was not able to answer your very nice letter of July 20th as early as I should have liked.

I am very happy that you feel that what has been written in the Battle of Surigao Strait reads well. We have been having quite a time in writing this book due to the fact that it has been hard to obtain data. One of the difficulties has been to solve the problem created by the movements of the destroyer section (NEWCOMB, LEARY, GRANT) and the movements of the DENVER. In connection with this, I visited Admiral Smoot in Washington and Vice Admiral Hayler in Carmel.

Admiral Smoot now states that he was ahead of the LEARY and GRANT by probably 2000 yards (the plot reveals the distance as about 3000 yards) and Vice Admiral Hayler, who commanded CRUDIV 12 (in the DENVER), states that he thinks our new plot (made up here since you left) is also correct and that the DENVER, being under fire from the Japanese battleships, had veered off to the northeast so that she was to the north of the left flank cruisers. This exactly checks the plot and shows the plotted range and bearing of the DENVER and GRANT are correct. In fact, Admiral Hayler says that although the DENVER had requested permission to fire on the GRANT earlier he had refused because he wasn't sure she was enemy; however, since the GRANT appeared to be approaching the cruisers in a "menacing" manner, he authorized the DENVER to open fire. Actually, at this time the GRANT and LEARY were close together (about 300 yards); the NEWCOMB had already retired.

I knew about your orders to BuPers sometime ago so I carefully looked into it to see what assignment you were going to get. I told BuPers about you and of your quality; they said that they had chosen you for that purpose but they weren't entirely sure you would end up in BuPers, but might end up in the Pentagon. Therefore, it is possible that my recommendations have placed you in BuPers.

0842

1 August 1956

I note that you are now appearing before the selection board. This, of course, is your first time and I hope that it will be your only time. You did a fine job here with me and I did all that I could to help you on your way. You evidently did a wonderful job down there in your ServRon. Therefore, other things being equal and not holding you down because you had stomach ulcers once, I look forward to your success.

We have not been able to complete Volume III of the Battle for Leyte Gulf. I hope it will be finished this year; in fact, I have to finish at least the body of it as I have already lost CDR Waring and CDR Zirkle is due to be detached in about three months. These battles are getting more and more difficult to write up as time passes; primarily because we are finding more and more information, i.e., information is being made available to us which we did not have before. This caused a complete re-write of the rough drafts of Volume III (written by CDR Bowker). What we have now I am sure is correct and up to date. What we had written before was sound but was very much lacking in much of the information.

Give my best to your wife and here's hoping that I will be able to write you a note of congratulations soon.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

CDR C.A. Marinke, USN
Staff, ComServRon TWO
c/o Fleet Post Office
New York, N.Y.

0843

August 1, 1956

Dear Judge:

Thank you for the clipping about Perle Mesta, her brother-in-law and sister, George and Marguerite Tyson.

I am not too concerned about this. It is just one of these unfortunate things that happen in life. The newspaper articles usually exaggerate the actual situation.

I don't know what it is all about, but I wouldn't be at all surprised if the Tysons and the Mestas are right. Frankly, I didn't know that Bill Tyson had married before. He is a young friend of mine and I knew him when he was at Harvard.

It was nice to see you in Washington and to note that your eyes have considerably improved. You can probably see much more with one eye than many others can with two. If it will make you feel any better, Theodore Roosevelt, the former President of the U.S., had only one eye. He lost the other eye boxing with Major Butts, his military aide, but the matter was kept from the American public for many years.

With best regards to you and yours, I am,
as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Jas. Wallace Kemp
University Club
Room 513
Washington, D.C.

0844

August 3, 1956

Dear Felix:

I hope that you will notice in the enclosure to this letter that the Navy's 1928 baseball team have, with the exception of those who have died or are out of the Navy and one person who has as yet not been considered, all become Rear Admirals.

I am a little bit surprised that the criterion for promotion should be the ability to play baseball. I had hoped, if any criterion were employed of that nature, that it would be football. In fact, such has been the case more than once; during the war when I was in Hollandia a Captain McGuire of the class of 1920 said to me, "One man who should be promoted to Rear Admiral is Eddie Ewen." I asked why this should be so. He replied, "Why not, he was twice captain of the Navy football team!"

So much for the humor!

It was nice to see you in Washington when you were there sometime ago and I thoroughly enjoyed talking things over with you. I have been proud of your performance as CINCPACFLT because it appears, from all sources, that you are excelling. This idea is borne out by the decision of the President to retain you on active duty several years beyond your retirement date. Since I am doing the same thing, I think our old captain, Captain Stanford Moses, would be rather pleased to see his ex-Executive Officer and ex-Navigator still "holding down the fort" some 38 years after their duty with him in the old CINCINNATI.

0845

August 3, 1956

By the way, I understand that I have a niece out in Hawaii, a very stunning girl who is there for a holiday. I don't know what her address is but I shall write to my brother (the Doctor) in San Francisco to find out. Then, I will ask you if you won't give her a 5% VIP treatment!

Please give my best regards to "Germany" Curts; I have always thought he was a wonderful fellow and I enjoyed my service with him both in the Fleet and in Washington greatly.

With best regards, to you, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral Felix B. Stump, U.S. Navy
Commander in Chief,
Pacific and U.S. Pacific Fleet
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

0846

August 6, 1956

Dear Bobby:

It was a lot of fun seeing you out on the Coast, and I was glad to see how well you are housed and how happy you are. I was sorry, however, your Mrs. was absent as I should have liked very much to have seen and talked to her.

Your letter has arrived and Captain Titus, who at the present moment is working on that phase of Surigao, was very pleased to see that our plot is proving out. I knew that it would as it always has, but Surigao is quite difficult because nobody gives any real fixes in it. Therefore, it is necessary to fit the ships with relation to one another and to practically move the whole thing up and down, and back and forth in the Strait.

I think you are quite well set up out there in Carmel. I noted with interest that Judge and Frances Underwood have a house there (and Swede Overesh also) and presently you all ought to get closer together than you are now. In fact, it seems to me that, although everyone is fairly near in your area, they are nevertheless far apart in the mind, with the result that people in town practically never see anybody in the country although the distance is probably not more than about five miles or even much less. This is somewhat similar to Honolulu where the people who live in Kailua are considered as frightfully far away when as a matter of fact Kailua is but thirteen miles from Honolulu and over a most delightful Pass. It took me some time to get people to come to see me there because they thought the trip was just about the same as driving to Los Angeles from San Francisco. In other words, this "block in the mind" has to be

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August 6, 1956

broken down in Hawaii and may have to be broken down where you are.

I haven't seen your son since I returned, but as I have only been back a few days and as his ship does not seem to be here, that probably accounts for it.

I told Admiral McCormick about seeing you down there and he was quite interested. None of your classmates are in this area that I know of, so that now, instead of considering classmates, we have to consider "battlemates"; as you know, you were quite a battlemate for all of us.

Thank you for your letter. With best regards to you and yours, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

VADM Robert W. Hayler, USN(Ret)
P.O. Box 3662
Carmel, California

0848

August 6, 1956

Dear Jack:

It was with considerable surprise and concern that I learned on Saturday that you had been operated on at Rochester. I had no idea that you were ill in any way, although, as I told you before, I did fear that your heart might not stand the load you were persisting to place upon it. Now, your heart will get a rest which will be all to the good so that, despite the serious nature of your present operation, it may have saved you from what might have been something worse. I am not saying this to you to frighten you, but to tell you, as I said in the beginning, that it is an "ill wind that blows nobody good".

I hope that this letter finds you vastly improved and out of any danger you may have been in, and that you will be presently restored to us in full health.

I have just returned from three weeks in California where I had a most delightful holiday. As a typical Bergen operation, I was constantly on the move, with the result that I don't believe I got a decent night's sleep while there. Upon my return here, I was startled to discover that they had repainted my apartment in part and had done something to most of my clothes, so that there is, at the present time, a vast shortage of many important items, not the least of which is neckties; all of my neckties, of which there must have been fifty, have disappeared. I think that my landlady knows where they are, but she has developed a heart ailment and is in the hospital and the children know nothing about anything, so that for the present at least I am operating in very similar fashion to my trip to the Coast. In fact, I might just as well have remained there, if the rest factor is considered.

0849

August 6, 1956

Things are going along well in Newport. Your old friend, Bob Young, is working hard at pool and he has defeated me twice out of three times in recent days. Believe it or not, I had 91 when he had 8 (I was really hot) and then I couldn't make any caroms at all and he went right ahead and beat me. The "son-of-a-gun" certainly plays well!

Lynde McCormick seems to be a lot better than he was during the winter and is constantly playing golf, although put out of a "father - son" tournament by the ill play of his son, Jet, who had some off-days at a most inopportune time. I think Jet feel "out of grace" with his father because of his performance!

We had a Carnival of Music on Friday and Saturday nights down in Kings Park. It was attended by over nine thousand for the two nights. This was a success muchly hoped for but which we all were fearful we would not get. However, the weather was delightful, the show wonderful, the patrons gratifyingly happy, and all was well.

Once again, let me wish you all the success in your speedy recovery. If you will tell me how to telephone you I will talk to you on the telephone, so hurry up and send me a note. If you can't do this, have "Babe" do it as I guess she is there with you. If she is, give her my best!

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

RADM John J. Bergen, USNR
40 Wall Street
New York, N.Y.

0247 21412

0850

10 August 1956

Dear Admiral Spruance:

This is a thank you note to tell you of how much I enjoyed seeing you and Margaret during my stay in Carmel. I was particularly impressed with the fact that you both seemed very happy and, despite the numerous responsibilities which have been thrust upon you since the early dawn of your Naval career, have reconciled yourselves to the fact that time passes on. I noticed that ex-President Hoover said, on the occasion of his 82nd birthday, that one should always keep busy because otherwise one will talk about his pills, his operations, and his income taxes. This is an interesting remark because Mr. Hoover at the Bohemian Grove gave a talk largely on taxes (income taxes). The assumption from this is that he at least is still speaking of one of the three negatives to which he referred at the beginning of this comment. Since Mr. Hoover is to make one of the addresses at the Republican Convention, I think that he would have no time even for taxes!

I thought your house looked fine and I had great pleasure in meeting your grandchildren; how nice they were and how friendly to me. I also was particularly pleased to see the Keiths as they have been friends of mine since War College days; it was with regret that I saw them leave the foreign service. They are a wonderful couple and with you they also seem to have discovered the art of living. What a happy combination to have them nearby so that, with the Underwoods and Overeschs, you will have a very happy group with whom to while away the passing days.

Finally, I want to say how much I enjoyed going to the old Capital Club. I thought the Club very interesting; the lunch quite nice; the guests particularly pleasant, notably Dr. Remsen Bird. I enjoyed him immensely!

After leaving your house, I had a long talk with Admiral Hayler, remaining at his house for quite a while. I particularly wanted to talk to him because it was his flagship, the DENVER, which shelled the A.W. GRANT in the Battle of Surigao Strait, so that the GRANT was hit on two sides; by the Japanese on one side and by the U.S. Navy on the other. I was incensed at the time because I thought my plan was such as to prevent anybody being hit at all. There is an old saying, however, that "The best intentions of mice and men..." etc.

0851

10 August 1956

Admiral Hayler accepted our plots, but, more than that, said that he thought what we were doing was very clever and thorough and that it really was too bad that he personally had finally approved the Captain's wish to fire at the GRANT, which he had feared was friendly. Actually, it was!

Upon my return to San Francisco, I went to the Bohemian Grove for a few days and managed to listen to the Low Jinks, which was quite humorous. Except for that, I didn't find the Grove unusual.

I left the Grove to fly back to the East Coast where I am now back again in the War College. Fortunately, the weather has been as good here as in California so that the change wasn't too bad.

I reported in to the McCormicks and others who were very anxious to hear about you. I told them that I had seen you and Kelly Turner, "Howling Mad" Smith, General Leroy Hunt and numerous others, mostly retired.

I'm pleased that the Underwoods are to live near you at least part of the time. They are staunch and dear friends who have always stood by through both fair weather and foul and I love seeing them.

Upon my return to Newport, I discovered that five of my friends some of whom were also your friends, had died in my absence, believe it or not. One, and the youngest, was Kenneth Safe, from Providence, who had a house on Gibbs Avenue. He died at 54 of some internal infection. Then, my old friend, Dr. Hamilton Rice, died, mostly of old age. Thirdly, Mazie (Haywood) Rovinsky, who had recently married John Rovinsky and who lived in one of the "marble palaces" up the Avenue, suddenly died. She had only been married a couple of years and was taking up dancing lessons and other things (at the age of 80 or more) which apparently caused her demise. Another was Mrs. Edmund Grinnell, Old Beach Road, who died at the age of 90-plus, and, finally, Mrs. James Beck, whose son has a home, "Plaisance", out near Bailey's Beach. This old lady, who was the widow of the former Solicitor General in President (?) Hoover's cabinet, departed this life at 98. I couldn't complain too much about these losses, except in the case of Kenneth Safe, who was called far before his time.

That is one of the unfortunate things about Newport. There are a lot of old people here. The New England climate seems to keep them going long after what should have been the end of their lives in another area.

0852

10 August 1956

Once again, let me thank you very much for the pleasure of seeing you and of being your guest in Carmel. As you know, we all have a great respect for you and for your accomplishments, but, most of all, we love you both as friends.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, USN(Ret)
P.O. Box 192
Pebble Beach, California

0853

10 August 1956

Dear Dick:

I haven't heard from either you or Helen for such a long time that I am wondering whether by any chance you are out of the country. It is impossible for me to feel that you could still be down there and yet have forgotten that I am up here.

As you know, I have been out to California where I had quite a wonderful time. The weather was divine; everybody seemed extremely happy; Eisenhower seems to be on the road to recovery; and I heard excellent broadcasts about the L.I. University on the radio during the night hours. (By the way, these broadcasts were heard upon my return to Newport only.)

I had a long talk with Admiral Spruance (for two days) and with Admiral Hayler. Bobby was in fine fettle; however, I unfortunately did not see his wife as she had departed when I arrived. Bobby is very well housed, as you know, and seems well pleased with his surroundings.

I was a little surprised that the Spruances and Haylers didn't seem to associate as much as I had hoped. This is so not because of any ill-feeling but rather because of the distance between them--roughly five miles. As I wrote to someone (commenting on this), I felt that this situation was like that of those persons living in Kailua (15 miles from Honolulu) who are considered to be living on the Mainland by the city folk and therefore are practically isolated.

As you know, Jack Bergen is in the hospital where he had quite a serious operation. I talked to "Babe" on the telephone in Rochester on Wednesday last. She said that they had caught him just in time and that

0854

10 August 1956

he was improving rapidly. This will be as good news to you as it was for me because we are both very fond of that "scoundrel". He is certainly lucky. It was God's Will that he should have been out there when he was and to have fallen into such fine surgical hands.

The Naval War College is getting ready to reopen--reopening date is August 17th--and will be even larger than ever. Our particularly important new addition is the twenty-three foreign officers (mostly from NATO nations) who will be here for one year in the Command and Staff Course for Foreign Officers. The head man for this course is your old friend, Captain Colbert, who was selected for this assignment on your recommendation. You may not know this, but it is so. Your recommendations as to the calibre and character of Captain Colbert were considered ample to give him this very important assignment.

When I was out on the Coast, I saw a lot of people that you might be interested in besides Admirals Spruance and Hayler. Among others were "Howling Mad" Smith, Leroy Hunt, Jack Redman, and Entwistle (who has retired and taken a job with Deane Witter & Co. (stocks and bonds)).

There is nothing new to report.

With best regards to you and Helen, I am,
as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral R.L. Conolly, USN(Ret)

President, L.I. University,

Brooklyn 1, N.Y.

0855

24 August 1956

Dear Hutch:

This is to thank you very much for your thoughtfulness in looking out for Admiral Robbins and myself during our recent unhappy visit to Annapolis for the McCormick funeral.

Admiral Robbins has been quite "loud" in his praise of your and Heather's courtesies to him during his stay there, and I can only reinforce what he says.

It was very interesting to see how well you are "cemented" in the Annapolis area and how much you are contributing to that area. I like it, and I particularly like the fact that you have not allowed your retirement in any way to interfere with your enjoyment of life. You have found things to do which, while interesting and helpful to many, are not too over-loading so as to make them difficult and dangerous to your health.

It was nice to see you in New York yesterday and to have had lunch together. I thought our committee did a fine job there, but I do insist that certain factors have to be considered in this thing. I talked to Rip about them later. I think that he is going to give them the once over. In my mind, the facts which are of particular interest to me are these (a) the question of strength of the construction, (b) the length of the hair in the groin and (c) the position of the head for butting.

With best regards to you and with many thanks again for your kindnesses, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Commodore M. W. Hutchinson, Jr., USN(Ret)
6 Action Place
Annapolis, Md.

0856

24 August 1956

Dear Red:

I was very happy when I was in Washington the other day to have had the chance to sit with you and to talk with you a little while during your lunch hour. I was also pleased to note that (a) President Eisenhower seemed to be in good physical shape, and (b) you would do what you could to help me. The former is important to the Country, the latter to Bates, R. W.

I will write a letter presently about San Trembath, my Chief Quartermaster. As I pointed out to you and also to Davis, I am losing two of my three yeomen and both of my commanders, all within a matter of a couple of months. This makes the situation quite unhappy because knowledge of the location of documents in the files, and many other factors relating to the type of analysis I am conducting requires a continuity of personnel.

I want to remind you also about Captain H.M.S. GIMBER, Jr., who is on my staff. As I told you before he has had cancer of the throat, which was successfully removed. Normally, five years is supposed to pass before the patient will be considered out of danger. In Captain Gimber's case, however four years have now elapsed and he has certainly improved. His voice is practically normal and he has had a wonderful cure. It is my belief therefore that, as a Communication P.G., it would be well if he were given command of one of your Communication flagships, such as the Northampton. He has a fine head and is consulted by many in the College on many matters. This in itself is an indication of his generally superior knowledge over many, or shall we say, most of his fellow officers.

I certainly hope Jean gets better one day soon. She has had a tough time and because of this you have had a rough time as well. All of this is bad for your friends!

With best regards to you and yours, I am, as ever,

Your old friend

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral H.A. Yeager, USN
Ass't Chief of Naval Personnel for Education and Training
Navy Department, Washington 25, D. C.

0857

August 24, 1956

Dear Carl:

I suppose that, by now, you have received a giftbox with a couple of Tyrolean devices to be worn on a Tyrolean hat.

This gift is in return for your thoughtfulness in pinning such devices from your own collection onto my hat.

I hope that what I have sent you meets with your approval. I can assure you that they were received from abroad.

I imagine that now that the Republican Convention is over you will have a chance to relax. Certainly, your hotel was full of delegates to the Republican National Convention, and I hope that the profits are so enormous that the next time I see you you will be able to pin a new device on me!

Things are going along very well here in Newport, although the President of the Naval War College suddenly died from a heart attack. It was too bad because he was also very well known in San Francisco and therefore his loss is not only felt by us here but also by his many friends there. You perhaps knew him very well (Vice Admiral Lynde D. McCormick, U.S. Navy) as he was Commandant of the TWELFTH Naval District a few years ago.

I want you to know that I always enjoy seeing you in the Grove. I am rarely in the Grove very long because I am too busy in Newport to remain the whole length of the time and therefore I usually stay from two to four days.

0858

August 24, 1956

You are such a kindly and pleasant fellow
that your presence is felt everywhere.
Everyone knows you and need I say in a most
affectionate way.

With many thanks for your kindness to me
in the past and with hopes that my little
gift will meet with your approval, I am,
as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy

Mr. Carl Weber,
Manager,
Whitcomb Hotel
Civic Center,
San Francisco, Calif.

0859

August 27, 1956

Dear Hutch:

This is a second letter which I am sending to you with the thought that perhaps you might care to place part of it in the Bulletin. It relates to the loss of Lynde McCormick.

As you perhaps know, back in the war, Lynde was in a plane crash at Alameda. The belief is that the crash was caused by a log, or by a nose-dive by the pilot. Anyway, he hurt his back rather badly and had been troubled with it ever since.

During this past winter, I thought that he was not feeling awfully well because the winter was very cold and he was unable to exercise very much. However, with the arrival of summer, he improved greatly and seemed very happy in the area. He was so happy, in fact, that he did not take an annual leave this year but, instead, chose to remain in the Newport area and have his leave from his house. During the summer, he played a great deal of golf and some cards, because he was quite an enthusiast over Bridge.

His birthday was on Sunday, August 12th. I had planned to give him a dinner on that day, but Captain W.D. Puleston had asked him before I did, so I put my party off until the following day (Monday, the 13th) if I could obtain certain of their friends. Unfortunately, I could not get these friends at that time, so we agreed to delay the dinner until another day.

However, I did go in to see Lynde about it on Monday, and I then congratulated him on his birthday. He seemed very pleased about it and we had quite a friendly chat (as we often did). I asked him how he was feeling and he replied that he was feeling fine. I said, "Are you sure?" and he said, "Certainly, I'm sure! I have been playing good golf, my game is improving rapidly, and I think that I'm quite healthy." I said, "Well, I just wanted to be sure of this because Tommy Robbins (Chief of Staff--Rear Admiral) has told me on two or three occasions recently that he thought you looked quite badly." and then I said, "Frankly, I think you look pretty good today, Lynde." To this, he replied that he was in fine shape and wished that Tommy would not make such remarks. I told him that they were made because Robbins was deeply interested in him, in fact, was very anxious about him, and that my suggestion to him

0860

August 27, 1956

was not to blame Tommy for making such a remark but to avoid letting Tommy see him after he had been at a late party or dinner.

I did not discuss the matter again with Lynde, although I saw him on several occasions. In fact, on Wednesday evening I went to a dinner party in Newport given by Mrs. Thomas Clagett of Washington (and Newport) to celebrate the return of her husband from a guest trip around the Horn on the carrier Franklin D. Roosevelt. At this dinner Lynde and Lil were present and both were in a very gay mood. I had a most pleasant chat with both of them and any sort of illness was clearly not even thought of. You can imagine my surprise, therefore, on the following morning at 0630, to be notified that he had died.

As a matter of interest and perhaps advice to us all, since we are gradually nearing the age when the Good Lord calls us to his Bosom, I should like to narrate here what happened to Lynde.

He returned home from the Clagett dinner at about midnight. At about 0415 he called Lil and said that he had strong pains across his chest and to call the doctor. A wonderful Navy doctor (Captain M.M. Driskell), who is a heart specialist, immediately responded and gave Lynde a hypodermic. After the pain had subsided, he put Lynde on a stretcher and took him to the Naval Hospital. At this point, Lynde showed his great natural courage and his sense of humor for, as he left his house on the stretcher, he remarked, "Anyone would think that I was running for the Presidency."

After he had arrived at the hospital, he suffered a second heart attack which he weathered. He then suggested to Doctor Driskell that he, the doctor, relax, but the doctor said that he would remain for the present. At about six o'clock, the doctor noted that Lynde was sinking. He breathed his last about 0620.

The funeral was held at Annapolis and was conducted by the former Chief of the Chaplain Corps, W.N. Thomas, assisted by Captain Zimmerman, who is the Naval Academy Chaplain. I thought that it was beautifully done and was inspiring to all. In this connection, I want to thank you very much for your great share in assisting the Naval Academy and our classmates (and these others who were pallbearers) in making the funeral so lovely and so meaningful.

While the service was going on at Annapolis, a similar service (a memorial service) was being held at the Chapel at the Naval Hospital here in Newport. I understand that

0861

August 27, 1956

it was well attended both by the Navy and by the many civilians whom Lynde and Lil knew so well.

Lynde's loss is quite a blow to the Naval War College. We are just starting a new year with not only the usual new class but also with an additional new class of twenty-three officers from twenty-three different nations. Lynde was thoroughly familiar with everything and his great prestige, his wonderful understanding of warfare, his handsome appearance, and his kindly manner would have helped greatly.

The Country and the Navy have lost a great Naval Officer--our class a classmate who loved us all and believed in the class--I and many others have lost a great personal friend.

With best regards and with many thanks again for your help in this whole unhappy affair, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Commodore M.W. Hutchinson, Jr., USN(Ret)
6 Acton Place
Annapolis, Md.

0862

27 August 1956

Dear Draper:

I was awfully sorry to learn that during my absence you had been in my office during your short visit to Jamestown. Unfortunately, I had to be in New York to attend a meeting and did not return until the next day.

I have been hoping that you might be up here on September 3rd, at which time we have our usual clambake at the Clambake Club. I am now a member of that famous club, having been unanimously elected over my objection. I wished to remain a subscriber which, although it costs a little more, relieves a person of some of the responsibilities. It was for this "responsibility" reason that I have refrained from joining the Newport Reading Room which also elected me after unanimous agreement, but this one I did not accept.

I hope to see your Father shortly, probably this week. I plan to go over there and visit--he doesn't know this, but I shall presently inform him of the sad news!

I haven't heard anything yet concerning who is going to relieve at the Naval War College. As I told you before, unless they are going to make a high level change, it would be wise to retain Admiral Robbins here and give him the responsibility as President of the Naval War College. He is thoroughly familiar with the whole situation, very well-informed on military matters, was trained by both Admiral's Conolly and McCormick, who thought a lot of him--in fact, Admiral Conolly only last week told me that he thought that Robbins was one of the brightest officers in the Navy--and, in my mind, would do admirably if they left him here as President.

0863

27 August 1956

He is well known and respected by the civilian public.

If you can get up here on September 3rd, an early word would be appreciated.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Captain D. L. Kauffman, USN
Room 4E664
Department of the Navy
Office of the Under Secretary
Washington 25, D.C.

0864

27 August 1956

Dear Phil:

As you know, Vice Admiral Lynde D. McCormick died suddenly a few days ago. No portrait of him had as yet been painted for the Naval War College. An endeavor had been made to paint him--it had been approved in principle by the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Personnel--but it was difficult to find someone to do it from life.

The College is now anxious to have him painted for the Library by someone who is capable and who might be willing to do it from photographs as a gesture of goodwill, or on active duty, or some such thing.

Some years ago--1950--the Marine Corps arranged for LtCol John J. Capolino, USMCR, to paint Admiral Beary from photographs and snapshots. Colonel Capolino did not come to the Naval War College at all, as I recollect, but, instead, did the portrait in Philadelphia. To the great delight of the Beary family and of all of Admiral Beary's friends, the painting was highly successful.

Would it be possible to have Colonel John J. Capolino, USMCR, paint Admiral McCormick under similar circumstances? It would not be necessary for Colonel Capolino to come to the Naval War College. Photographs of Admiral McCormick have been loaned to the College by the family for this purpose and these could be made available to the Colonel.

I have seen your brother on two or three occasions; he looks well and is, I hope, happy. In fact, I had quite a chat with him and Colonel Spencer S. Berger, USMC, on Saturday morning.

0865

27 August 1956

I hope that all is well with you and that the Marine Corps recruiting is up to the high standards I know you have set for it.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

BrigGen J.P. Berkeley, USMC
Assistant Chief of Staff,
G-1, Room 2212
U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters
Washington 25, D.C.

0866

28 August 1956

Dear Admiral Spruance:

In view of the fact that you were Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet at the end of the war and Lynde McCormick was your deputy, and in further view of the fact that you have long been closely associated with him, I feel that it is my sad duty to inform you not only of his loss (which, of course you know about) but also of the manner of his going.

Lynde had been the President of this college for about two years. He thoroughly enjoyed it, and enjoyed the whole area equally well. The result of this was that this summer, instead of going on leave, he decided to remain here and have his holiday from the President's House. In this, he was quite successful; his golf improved, his health likewise, and he made many more friends than he had before, which is a great deal to say the least.

His last birthday was on Sunday, August 12th, at which time he became sixty-one. I had planned to give him a dinner on that day, but Captain W.D. Puleston had asked him before I did, so I put my dinner off until the following day (Monday, the 13th) if I could obtain certain of their (Lynde and Lil's) friends. Unfortunately, I could not get these friends at that time, so we agreed to delay the dinner until another day, a dinner which we both looked forward to.

However, I did go in to see Lynde on Monday, at which time I congratulated him on his birthday. He seemed very pleased about it and we had quite a friendly chat (as we often did). I asked him how he was feeling and he replied that he was feeling fine. I said, "Are you sure?" and he said, "Certainly, I'm sure! I have been playing good golf, my game is improving rapidly, and I think that I'm quite healthy." At this time, I told him that Admiral Robbins (Chief of Staff) was quite concerned about him in that on two or three occasions he looked quite badly. Since Admiral Robbins is the Chief of Staff and saw Lynde every day and I only encountered him on several occasions, I wasn't able to notice any great change. I said, "Frankly, I think you look pretty good today, Lynde." To this, he replied that he was in fine shape and was astonished that Tommy had made such remarks. I told him that they were made because Robbins was deeply interested in him, that I thought his (Tommy's) opinions were worthy of attention, and that my suggestion to him (Lynde) was not to blame Tommy for making such a remark but to avoid letting Tommy see him after he had been at a late party or dinner. With this, we laughed.

0867

28 August 1956

I did not discuss the matter again with Lynde, although I saw him on several occasions. In fact, on Wednesday evening, I went with Lynde and Lil to a dinner party in Newport given by Mrs. Thomas Clagett of Washington (and Newport) to celebrate the return of her husband from a guest trip around the Horn on the carrier Franklin D. Roosevelt. He had had a most enjoyable trip and wished to tell Admiral McCormick and myself about it. There were many other people at the party and we all received tiny gifts. During this evening, I had a pleasant chat with both Lynde and Lil, both seemed in wonderful shape, and any sort of illness was clearly not even thought of. You can imagine my surprise, therefore, on the following morning at 0630 to be notified that Lynde had died.

Here is a sequence of events. Lynde and Lil returned home from the Clagett dinner at about midnight. At about 0400 he called Lil and said that he had strong pains across the chest and to call the doctor. A wonderful Navy doctor (Captain M.W. Driskell), notified at about 0405, promptly responded. Doctor Driskell, who has the confidence of all of us, is an excellent heart specialist. He gave Lynde a hypodermic and, after the pain had subsided, put him on a stretcher and took him to the Naval Hospital. At this moment, Lynde showed his fine military character, great natural courage and sense of humor for, as he left his house on the stretcher, he remarked, "Anyone would think that I was running for the Presidency!"

Upon his arrival at the hospital, he suffered a second heart attack which he weathered. He then became surprisingly normal, his blood pressure normal, his pulse normal--the doctor hoped that it was over for the present. The Chaplain then was called (all of this being at about five A.M.) and Lynde waved to him as he entered.

Lynde then suggested to Doctor Driskell that he, the doctor, "take it easy" and "to relax", that he "felt fine". The doctor was standing at the door, talking with the Chaplain, when the Corpsman came running up to him and said that the Admiral had stopped breathing. The doctor rushed back but could do nothing; Lynde had passed away then and there (at about 0620).

The funeral was held at Annapolis after which Lynde's remains were cremated and buried in the family plot in the Annapolis Cemetery. The funeral was a military one and well attended. It was beautifully done and inspiring to all, even though there was some rain. I was one of the fourteen honorary pallbearers as was Mick Carney, Jimmy Hall, Jerry Wright, Donald Duncan, Rip Struble, Tommy Robbins, Mark Sperry and others, the names of whom I have temporarily forgotten. However, I have named the ones that I feel you would know.

0868

28 August 1956

We haven't heard anything as yet concerning who is going to be the next President of the Naval War College. We hope it will be Rear Admiral Robbins or at least temporarily so. For a while, we thought Admiral Duncan would come up, but apparently his wife has had a stroke which does not leave him in a very good mood about it all, so I think that he is out.

Lil is holding up very well and expects to leave Newport possibly tomorrow for Annapolis where she will stay temporarily at the Hotel Maryland. She will then return here sometime in September, after which I think she plans to take a look at La Jolla. I wonder if she might like to live in your area since she has so many friends there? I haven't suggested this to her, but perhaps you might like to invite her up for a day or so.

Once again, let me tell you of how much I enjoyed my visit with both you and Margaret. As I said before, you are a wonderful pair and have done much for your Country both diplomatically and militarily.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, USN(Ret)
P.O. Box 192
Pebble Beach, California

0869

3 September 1956

Dear Dr. Reitzel:

I was awfully sorry that, during your stay here, I wasn't able to get together with you long enough to have a proper appreciation of how I fit into your scheme of things. Yours is the important presentation, not mine, and it is very important that the "meat" of your presentation be placed in the minds of our students at an early period of their education here. Therefore, I want to be very careful that nothing I do in any way acts adversely to the success of your presentation. I don't think that it does and Henry Eccles doesn't think that it does either; in fact, he thinks that my presentation of examples of command decision will enhance an understanding of yours.

It is for this reason, as I told you here, that I am interested to have you, if you can, make an entry under my different examples to the effect that, "This is an example of Dr. Reitzel's so-and-so...", and then, later someday, if it is satisfactory to all, we may be able to take examples such as I have and fit them into your presentation, thus lengthening it beyond the scope of one lecture period.

All of this is quite interesting to me because I was very critical of the fact that the "Green Book", Sound Military Decision, did not have any real practicable examples. In fact, a number of those contained there were placed in there by me in 1941 - 42 including the index and the "green form sheet" that is in the back of the volume. I repeatedly told Admiral Kalbfus that he should have practical examples interposed under the discussions of thought processes so that the concept might be "brought home" then and there. Admiral Kalbfus was completely sold on this but said that I was the one to do it; however, I found it necessary to tell him that I could not do it as I had the entire student body of this college under my personal direction and I was reviewing every paper produced by each and every student. This meant, of course, that I was up every night until midnight for almost two years.

I am not saying this to commend myself; I am saying this to apologize for the fact that I did not do the one thing that should have been done in that book at this time. The same thing applies today and no one knows this better than you do. I suppose the reason is that our students are all

0870

3 September 1958

trained in a manner similar to the "Wentworth theory" of geometry wherein there was a discussion of the problem, then a "case" solution and, in many cases, the answer of every problem. This made us all "machine-like". The students today are apparently suffering from this fault and unless they can have an example to "drive home" the concept, it is possible that they may lose the concept.

Finally, I want to say that I am forwarding under separate cover the diagrams or, shall we say, the slides, which go with my presentation. I think they are clearly understandable and everyone in my section seems to feel so also.

With best regards to you and yours, I am, as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Professor William A. Reitzel
Haverford College
Haverford, Pa.

0871

September 11, 1956

Dear Lil:

Now that you have been away from here for about a week, I thought I would drop you this note to ascertain how you are and to tell you how things are going up here.

In the first place, everyone is, of course, interested in how you are; in fact, many of your friends have received notes from you, clearly in reply to something they did for you at the time of your unhappy loss, and they all seem very pleased with what you say, and, perhaps, with how you say it. I wasn't surprised at all because I know that this was exactly in accordance with your character.

Things are going along quite well here at the Naval War College; Admiral Robbins is carrying out the policies which had been laid down by Lynde, and, so far as I can see, there has been no changes whatsoever. Everyone seems very pleased in the College with the way the College is operating, and I feel sure that Lynde would be happy, if he were here, to see how well his concepts are being followed.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the foreword of Rear Admiral Robbins' opening address at the Naval War College on the 17th of August. I am sending this to you because, as you can see, Admiral Robbins made some very friendly, and certainly appreciative, remarks of Lynde's performance as President of the Naval War College as well as about his loss to the Nation. I thought you would be interested to see and to read what he said.

We are making arrangements to find an artist to paint Lynde's portrait. We are making progress. I feel sure that Admiral Robbins will agree with me that we should send you

0872

September 11, 1956

some of the work of the contemplated artist to see how you feel about it. Certainly, the Naval War College must have a portrait of Admiral McCormick and I don't have any doubt but that there will be a good one presently.

I see your many Newport friends quite frequently and they are always asking about you. I tell them that, so far as I know, you are all right and not in economic want of any kind; that you and Lynde had apparently handled your estate wisely so that you are not in the position of many naval widows, i.e. Mrs. Kalbfus; that, on the contrary, you are indeed fortunate. More than that, I don't say, as I don't know too much about it.

Last night, I gave a dinner for 60 of your friends and mine, taking them all to the boxing tournament after the dinner. The dinner was at the Commissioned Officers Mess (Open) and was held upstairs in the large entertainment room which has now been rebuilt into three rooms and redone by very excellent interior decorators; actually, it is so lovely that more than one of the guests wondered if it would be possible to "rent" this place to give a party!

The Club did wonderfully with the dinner, which, as you know, had to be eaten within an hour; the food was very good indeed, and I am certainly going to write them a letter of commendation for this.

The fights were very toughly contested; the Baltimore AAU Club were a lot of City, State and South-East Atlantic champions, and fought the All-Navy boys who are in training for the Olympics to be staged at Melbourne. At least, they hope they are going to win the opportunity of participating in the Olympics.

The result of last night's contests was that the All-Navy boys, except for one contest, were the winners. I believe that the Navy team was in much better condition, and that the Baltimore boys suffered from a weakness

0873

September 11, 1956

inherent in living in the city; lack of training, with the result that the third round was usually too much for them.

One of my guests had to drop out of last night's entertainment at the last moment-- this was "Nat" Hill. Eleanor called me and said he couldn't come to the party because he had been overdoing it and the doctor told them that if he went out again he might get a heart attack; therefore, he went to bed. Eleanor, however, came to the party and seemed very pleased about it all and said they had given Nat a sleeping pill and that he was really "out". Don't be concerned about this; you know Nat, he is always having problems resulting from many factors. I don't think there is anything serious whatsoever.

I hope things are going along well with you down there. Needless to say, we all miss you up here, and all of us wish you well.

If there is anything I can do, please advise me. With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. Lynde D. McCormick
Maryland Inn
Annapolis, Md.

0874

13 September 1956

Dear Dr. Reitzel:

I was quite interested in your letter of September 9th, relative to the "bridge to be crossed" between the abstract level of generalization and the level of concreteness and particularization.

I feel that there is not much a "bridge" required as a tie-in. I suppose you consider that, since a bridge ties two places together, your bridge is likewise a tie-in.

I will be glad to see you when you are up here. I understand that you will not be here during the time I give my lecture. However, should you happen to be present, I shall be happy to see you there. I of course realize that if you stay over it will be because you have lots to do and may be that you prefer to be on your own.

I look forward to listening to your speech. I haven't seen it, although I presume there is a rough draft of it here.

With best regards, and with thanks for your letter, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Dr. William Reitzel
Haverford College
Haverford, Pa.

0875

11 September 1956

Captain L.W. Creighton
President Advisory Group
Commissioned Officers Club
U.S. Naval Station
Newport, R.I.

Dear Captain Creighton:

This letter is to express to you my personal appreciation of the almost brilliant manner with which your entire Commissioned Officers Mess (Open) staff accomplished the responsibilities connected with a dinner which I gave last night. As you know, I gave a dinner for about sixty persons at the Commissioned Officers Mess (Open).

I made arrangements beforehand with the Manager, Mr. Charles J. Aubin, Jr., and with his assistant, Miss Cecile O'Marr, relative to this dinner because everything had to be done in clock-type precision. My guests were to arrive at 1830; cocktails were to be served in the Continental Room upstairs; and immediately following cocktails dinner was to be served. Everyone was to be out of there by 1950. To my great gratification everything was done as planned; the guests arrived on time--much to my surprise--the cocktail service was "tip-top", and then the dinner was served at the prettiest set of tables that I have seen in a long time.

Needless to say, the dinner was perfectly delightful, and my guests, who are accustomed to many varieties of expensive and exotic foods, thought that this was one of the best dinners they had ever had anywhere. They not only complimented me on the quality of the food, but upon the manner in which it was served.

Since most of these guests are quite prominent both in New York and Newport life, I think that the whole affair did the Naval Service a lot of good. Therefore, I desire to commend your attention to the services of Mr. Charles J. Aubin, Jr., his entire staff, and, in particular, the cooks and waitresses, who performed in the above wonderful fashion.

I think that this dinner has demonstrated to me the great possibilities inherent in the Commissioned Officers Mess (Open) today, and I can recommend it to others whose needs are similar to mine.

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11 September 1956

The guests were also impressed with the manner in which the rooms upstairs had been decorated. One even requested information as to whether it would be possible to "rent" it for a party or dinner to be given by herself!

Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

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